

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Clarus W. Rice
D/OCR
2E60 Hqs

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

8 June 1981

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

STAT

1.

D/FBIS
1005 Key Bldg.

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File

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John,

I asked the Library to determine how valuable the three different indices to the FBIS China Daily and JPRS translations were. The reference librarians indicated that TRANSDEX is used about 25 times per month, NEWS BANK about 20 times per month, and the FBIS/PRC Index about five times per month. The librarians, as well as Library customers, find all three publications difficult to use, cumbersome, and used only because there is nothing else.

I think your decision was wise to not commit resources beyond the coming year for the FBIS/PRC Index. MIDAS is going to provide you with the capability of providing full text machine searchable data, and such text search capability is generally more satisfactory than any printed index.

Printed indices are expensive; they often are not satisfactory to users because they are either not indexed in enough depth or the subject headings are difficult to use or understand.

I hope this additional data is helpful to you in making your final decision. If we can be of any more help, please call. I would appreciate your keeping us informed on your negotiations with Meade Data on NEXIS.

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8 June 1981

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Discussion with D/OCR re China Index, NEXIS, and SAFE

This memorandum summarizes the principal points made during a lengthy discussion I had on 4 June with Clare Rice, D/OCR.

China Index

1. We discussed the value of the China Index for OCR and the prospect of having OCR assume responsibility for producing the Index. Clare's basic view is that the China Index, while obviously useful, falls into the category of "nice to have," but not of sufficient value to justify applying the level of resources required to produce it. He noted that, as with all DAILY REPORTS and JPRS publications, a small percentage of the FBIS information on China is now indexed by OCR. Their analysts exercise individual judgment as to selection criteria.

2. OCR prefers to concentrate on retrieval methods that are linked to an automated information system. For example, when our DAILY REPORTS are eventually produced via automation, OCR will be interested in including the DAILY REPORTS in an OCR data retrieval system.

3. As far as indexing of JPRS material is concerned, Clare suggested that a possible approach would be to include something like a simple key word section in each JPRS article. The key words would then be incorporated by analysts in their own SAFE files. He did not see any possibility of OCR's undertaking a major indexing effort for JPRS products (or other FBIS publications), nor would he recommend that FBIS do this. Also, OCR wants to avoid producing items that compete with commercial publications.

NEXIS

4. Clare is very enthusiastic about NEXIS and would like to have the DAILY REPORT become part of it. If this happens, he believes this would obviate the need for indexing the DAILY REPORT. He would see no harm in having the DAILY REPORT included both in NEXIS and the New York Times Data Base. (A drawback is that Mead Data plans to retain information in NEXIS only for three years.) We discussed the desirability of the Agency's obtaining a reduced use rate for NEXIS if the DAILY REPORT is acquired.

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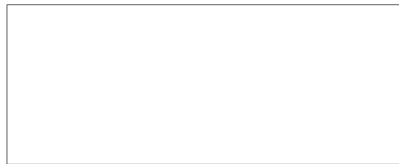
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SAFE

5. NFAC fully supports inclusion of FBIS in the SAFE system, but Clare acknowledged that the means of funding our participation is unresolved. It is unclear when it will be feasible to include FBIS, but it obviously will not be during the early stages. The first bloc is scheduled for early 1983, with the Middle East and Soviet strategic capability as the first two substantive topics to be incorporated in SAFE.



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Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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